

**SOUTHEAST UTAH INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE
ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2003**

Between the

**MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST
(Moab, Ferron, Price, and Monticello Ranger Districts)**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SOUTHEAST UTAH FIELD OFFICE ALLIANCE
(Moab Field Office, Price Field Office, Monticello Field Office)**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST UTAH GROUP
(Arches and Canyonlands National Parks; Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments)**

**UTAH FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS
also representing:
(Grand, San Juan, Emery and Carbon Counties)**

Forest Supervisor
Manti-La Sal National Forest

Date

Field Manager
SUFOA - BLM

Date

Superintendent
SEUG - National Park Service

Date

Area Manager
Utah forestry, Fire and State Lands

Date

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I. IDENTIFICATION OF AGENCIES

A. The following agencies are involved in the Southeast Utah Annual Operating Plan:

1. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest, Ferron, Price, Moab, and Monticello Ranger Districts, hereinafter called the USFS
2. The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Southeast Utah Field Office Alliance, hereinafter called the BLM
3. The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group (Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, and Hovenweep National Monument) hereinafter called the NPS
4. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, Grand, San Juan, Carbon, and Emery Counties, hereinafter called the State
5. The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region Forestry, Ute Mountain Ute Agency and Uintah and Ouray Agency, hereinafter called the BIA

B. The USFS, BLM, BIA, and NPS may hereinafter be jointly referred to as the Federal Agencies.

C. All Federal agencies and the State may hereinafter be jointly referred to as the Agencies.

II. AUTHORITY FOR PLAN

The authority for the Southeast Utah Annual Operating Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) is in accordance with the Cooperative Fire Management Agreement of March, 2001, (BIA No. AGH005016 and Forest Service No. 22-CA-95-022), between the State and Federal Agencies in Utah.

III. PURPOSE OF PLAN

The purpose of this AOP is to document agreement and commitment to fire management assistance and cooperation. This agreement is entered into by and between the Agencies.

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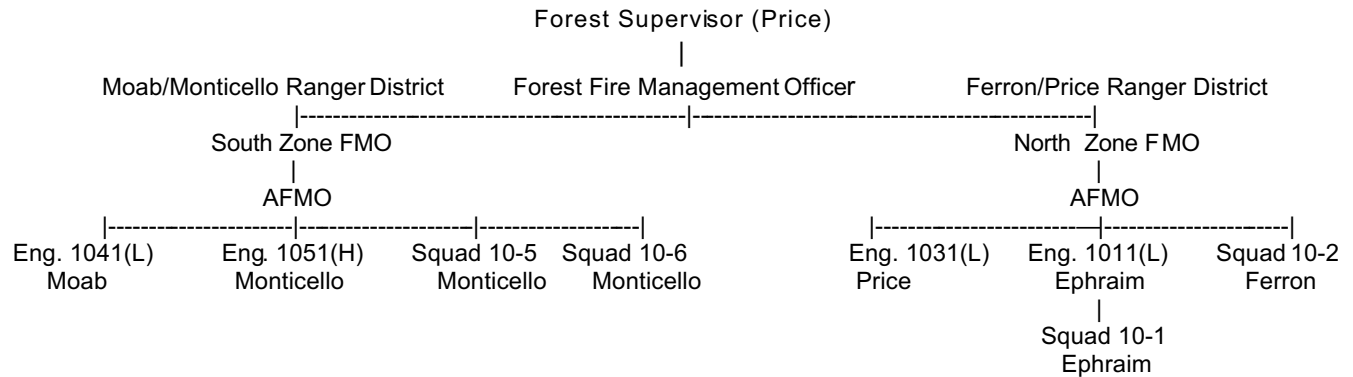
IV. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

- A. **Fire Protection Responsibilities:** As defined in the Master Agreement each Agency may have fire protection responsibilities in the following areas:
- 1) Protecting Agency - The agency responsible for providing direct wildland fire protection To a given area pursuant to this agreement
 - 2) Supporting Agency - An agency providing suppression (Initial Attack) or other support and resources to the Protecting Agency.
 - 3) Jurisdictional Agency - The agency that has overall land and resource management and/or protection responsibility as provided by Federal or State law.
- B. **Direct Protection Areas:** Each Federal agency has protection responsibilities for lands which they administer. The State, through internal agreements, has the responsibility to provide wildland fire protection for all state and unincorporated private land in the four counties.
- C. **Protection Boundary:** Each agency's protection boundary conforms to jurisdictional boundaries.
- D. **Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas by Dispatch Levels:** Mutual aid is defined as providing aid to other agencies. Aid can be provided at any and all dispatch levels.
- E. **Mutual Aid Move-up and Cover Facilities:** Move-up is the system of redistributing remaining personnel and equipment following dispatch of initial forces.
- F. **Special Management Considerations:** (wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, research natural areas, archeological sites, roadless areas, or other areas identified in land management planning documents or otherwise requiring special procedures): Each agency has policies and/or specific special management areas identified in their respective land management plans.
- G. **Responsibility for Non-Wildland Fire Emergencies:** Emergencies other than wildland fire (such as search and rescue, medical, earthquake, etc.) on federal, state, and private lands are the responsibility of the sheriff of the county in which the emergency occurs.
- H. **MIST:** Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics
- I. **MIMT:** Minimum Impact Management Tactics

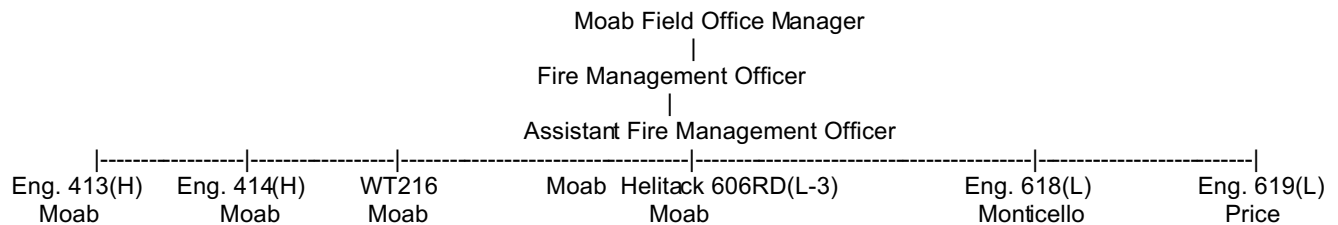
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V. Fire Protection Organization: (Chain of Command)

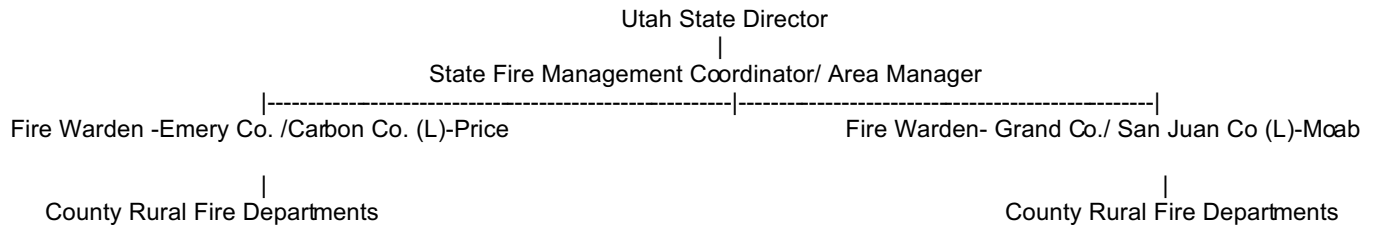
U.S. Forest Service



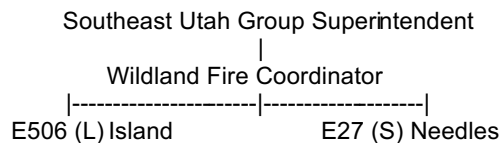
Bureau of Land Management



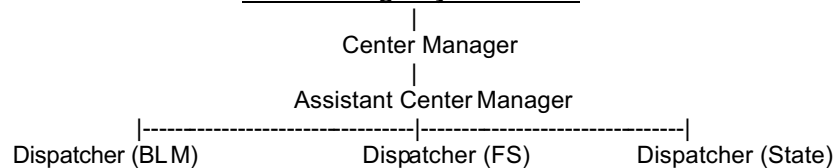
State of Utah



National Park Service



MIFC Oversight Committee Interagency Coordinating Group Moab Interagency Fire Center



(L) - Light 200-300 gallon, (H) - Heavy (900 gallon), (S) - Structural

Appendix B contains the Southeast Utah Preparedness Level plan which outlines preparedness levels, draw down levels, etc.

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- A. **Supervisory Responsibilities:** The MIFC Center Manager Position is established by the Oversight Committee (one line officer from each agency) and is administratively supported by the Coordinating Group (USFS Fire Management Officer, BLM Fire Management Officer, NPS Wildland Fire Coordinator and the State Area Manager). The Center Manager supervises and administers the MIFC staff as per the following guidelines:

1. Review position descriptions and performance elements
2. Participate in selection panels
3. Complete annual performance evaluations and individual training plans to be submitted to and approved by the appropriate agency supervisor
4. Ensure individual training and advancement opportunities
5. Coordinate leave, overtime, compensatory time
6. Assign subordinate supervisory responsibilities
7. Work assignments for center personnel shall be coordinated through the Center Manager regardless of agency affiliation.

VI. PROTECTION AREA SUMMARIES

- A. **Jurisdictional Agency, Protection Unit, County, etc.:** Each agency will provide fire protection on lands they administer or have jurisdictional responsibilities. Several parties to this agreement have initial attack agreements with other agencies and offices along their borders (i.e. Moab, BLM and Grand Junction, BLM). All signers to this operating plan who are within the Moab Interagency Fire Center zone of influence agree to honor these agreements for initial attack assistance.

Without jeopardizing its own protection responsibilities, any participating agency will provide personnel, equipment and/or supplies requested by another agency as specified in each agency's fire mobilization plan.

Federal agencies requiring county or local fire department personnel and/or equipment on wildland fires are to coordinate requests through the Moab Interagency Fire Center. The Fire Center will then coordinate requests through the Utah Forestry, Fire, and State Land's Area Manager, or County Fire Warden for the given county where the personnel and/or equipment reside. Billing for county, and local fire department personnel and equipment will be handled by the State.

Note - The Moab Field Office - BLM and the Moab Valley Fire District have a separate agreement for fire coordination in the Moab valley which allows for direct initial attack requests between the two agencies.

Note – Arches National Park - NPS and the Moab Valley Fire Protection District have a separate agreement that provides that Moab Valley Fire District will suppress structural and vehicle fires that occur within park boundaries.

- B. **Funds for Fire Center operations will be bound by the MIFC Master Agreement:** The amount of money contributed by each agency will be renegotiated as needed by the Oversight Committee and the Coordinating Group. The Coordinating Group on an as needed basis will also negotiate any additional funding for Center operations.
- C. **Map and/or legal description, dated to meet current need:** Current maps are maintained at the Moab Interagency Fire Center.

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D. Fire Protection facilities by Agency and location:

Interagency – Moab Fire Station

USFS - Price – Initial Attack Cache

Moab - Initial Attack Cache

Ephraim - Initial Attack Cache

Monticello - Initial Attack Cache

Ferron - Initial Attack Cache

BLM - Price - Initial Attack Cache

Moab - 100 Person fire Cache, Interagency Fire Center, Helibase, Fire Staff Offices

Monticello - Initial Attack Cache

NPS – There are small Initial Attack Caches at each of the following locations: Arches N.P., Island In the Sky, River, and Needles Districts of Canyonlands N.P., Natural Bridges N.M., Hovenweep N.M.

STATE - Price, Moab (Initial Attack Cache), Monticello (Initial Attack Cache)

E. **Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas:** All signatory agencies in this AOP agree to use the "Closest Force" concept in dispatching of initial attack forces. Closest Force is defined as responding the appropriate resource (in terms of response time) to a report of a new fire incident in an unknown location. Closest Force may not apply to follow up response actions as determined by the agency with jurisdictional responsibility. No specific mutual aid dispatch areas are identified.

F. **Special Management Consideration Areas:** Special management considerations are identified in each agency's land use plans. MIST tactics and MIMT strategies will be required on the following areas under Forest Service jurisdictions: Riparian (RPN), Research Protection and Interpretation (RPI), and Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA).

VII. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. **Fire Notification:** All wildfires occurring on each agency's land (with the exception of areas west of Skyline Drive on the FS) will be reported to the Moab Interagency Fire Center (435-259-2123). Fires west of Skyline Drive are to be handled as follows:

1. Fires occurring on the FS west of Skyline Drive will be reported to the Richfield Interagency Fire Center (435-896-8404). RIFC will then notify MIFC and request a fire number.

During the period of May through October, the Moab Interagency Fire Center will maintain a coordinated list of available fire resources located in Southeast Utah. This list will be updated daily for all agencies. All suppression resources will notify MIFC each morning as to where they will be working during the operational period. If any resource significantly changes their location during the day they will notify MIFC immediately and update their location status.

When MIFC receives a report of a fire, they will utilize an interagency rotation of resources from each protection facility/location while still ensuring proper equipment and "Closest Force" guidelines are initiated. The appropriate duty officer(s) for the area of the incident will be promptly notified and may provide additional fire management direction.

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MIFC will be directly responsible for notifying, mobilizing, tracking, providing communication services for, and demobilizing these resources. In addition, MIFC will provide additional supplies and services to support those resources. The Center Manager or designated assistant, in conjunction with agency representative, will prioritize initial attack actions on all incidents in progress based on agency plans and directions.

Fire Names and Numbers will be tracked by MIFC. All agencies will use the same name once the fire has been officially named. Field units are responsible for providing a fire name to dispatch and should do so promptly, but note that MIFC may have to occasionally name a fire without field input due to resource ordering procedures or other reasons.

- B. Determination of Initial Attack Dispatch Levels:** MIFC dispatchers will keep track of available and committed resources throughout MIFC's jurisdiction. Dispatchers will gather situation and resource information from field units, organize it into appropriate reports, and advise the proper personnel. Dispatchers will keep informed of weather and fire danger predictions, and will advise all participating agencies of all situations, threatening fire behavior potential, and resource availability.

MIFC dispatchers will implement systems necessary to gather weather observations on a daily basis. Observations will be entered into WIMS and fire danger indices will be extracted. Morning and afternoon weather forecasts, special weather reports, national and regional situation reports, and lightning detection maps will be made available to engine crews and fire management. Determination of staffing and preparedness levels will be according to procedures outlined in Appendix B (Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan).

- C. Initial Attack:** When an initial attack resource takes action on an incident and determines land status, the duty officer for the appropriate agency will be promptly notified and briefed on the fire status. If approved by the duty officer, the Incident Commander for the I.A. resource will have suppression responsibility. The Duty Officer, however, retains the option of changing out the incident commander or suppression resources as he/she deems appropriate and may request additional resources be dispatched to the incident. The Incident Commander must be notified promptly of all resources ordered for the incident. The duty officer is to be promptly notified of any significant changes in the fire status.

In the event of a communication failure, the agency taking initial attack on a fire will continue until the responsible (or jurisdictional) agency can be notified.

Clauses 46 of the Master agreement will be followed for billing procedures.

A fire burning on land administered by one agency may be considered a threat to another agency and suppression action may be taken by the threatened agency. Prior to any action on another agency's land, the duty officer with jurisdictional responsibility will be notified and an agreement reached on the action to be taken. Agencies taking independent actions will absorb their own costs. This does not preclude any agency from taking actions they feel appropriate on their lands.

Agency policies will be followed for the suppression of structure and vehicle fires.

Land ownership of highway/road Right-of-Way fires will be determined by whose land the highway/road is crossing as identified on the land ownership maps in MIFC.

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- D. **Aircraft:** MIFC will receive orders and make arrangements for all fixed-wing and helicopter use requested by any of the participating agencies; this includes both administrative and incident use. All flight following procedures will be implemented as per specific agency requirements. Flight plans for all non-fire suppression activities will be prepared by the requesting agency and submitted to MIFC in accordance with SOP's. MIFC will maintain a current list of approved aircraft and pilots and will ensure that all flights originating at MIFC are initiated with approved aircraft and pilots. MIFC will notify the appropriate participating agency of all indiscretions, misuse, and improper or inappropriate flight situations in compliance with specific agency regulations. Aerial attack (retardant, smoke jumpers, and helicopters) will only be used when authorized by the agency with jurisdictional/protection responsibility. MIFC will notify all participating agencies of a requested reconnaissance (recon) flight by any other participating agency.

USFS – The North Zone or South Zone Fire Duty Officer in Charge will approve use of smokejumpers on lands under jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Zone Duty Officers will coordinate with the Forest FMO prior to using smokejumpers in the confines of the Muddy – Ferron drainages and the Dark Canyon wilderness Area. When a local Incident Commander is on the scene and it is determined smokejumpers are needed, smokejumpers will land in a safe location where a face to face will take place to determine strategy, assignments, and identify safety issues. (The Forest Service will continue to use smokejumpers on unstaffed initial attack fires when approved by the Duty Officer.)

BLM - Authority for use of aerial attack on lands under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management rests with the Duty Officer, Incident Commander, or with preplanned dispatch systems as activated by the dispatcher.

NPS - For lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, authority for retardant, and smoke jumpers rests with the Superintendent, or acting. The use of helicopters, however, rests with the Incident Commander or Duty Officer.

STATE - Approving authority for Forestry, Fire, and State Lands is listed in each county's mobilization plan.

- E. **Hand crews and Dozers:** MIFC will receive and process orders for crews and personnel. Fire and camp crews will be requested from the local area whenever feasible. Additional requests will be processed through Eastern Great Basin.

The Red Rock Regulars Hand crew will be comprised of personnel from the following agencies: NPS, USFS, BLM, and State with the Crew Boss position to be filled on a rotating basis. The weekly availability of the Red Rock crew will be determined by preparedness levels and availability of resources to fill the order. Transportation for the crew will be initiated by the fire center and will determine the location and time to meet. Each agency's duty officer will make individual contacts to fill the crew and will give the names to MIFC for crew manifest. Refer to the "Red Rock Regulars – Standard Operating Procedures" for specific crew make-up and dispatching.

Unless otherwise agreed, the Jurisdictional Agency will provide a Resource Advisor and/or archeologist to advise the Protecting Agency of any special conditions which may influence use of hand crews or dozers.

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F. Boundary Fires, Unified Command, and Cost Sharing: Boundary fires are defined as:

1. A fire burning jointly on lands under the jurisdiction of two or more agencies and the boundary line is known;
2. Where the fire location is known but the jurisdictional boundary on the ground is uncertain;
3. Where the location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the jurisdictional boundary.

Once the exact location of the fire is determined in relation to the jurisdictional boundary, it ceases to be a boundary line fire unless falling into category (1) above.

A representative of each agency having shared jurisdictional responsibility on a boundary line fire should become a member of the Unified Incident Command. When a commitment of resources affects one of the jurisdictional agencies, that agency will participate in decisions reached. The Unified Incident Command will document these actions in writing.

Suppression costs on a boundary line fire will be shared as set forth in Clause 37 of the Master Agreement. A written cost share agreement, except as otherwise provided by Clauses #17, #28, and #46, will be prepared by the responsible unit Administrators, or their authorized representatives.

G. Assistance by Hire and Resource Order Process: All requests for resources (engines, crews, aircraft, etc.) will be processed through the Moab Interagency Fire Center with the following exception:

1. State Fire Wardens may process requests for county owned resources directly through local county channels, however, MIFC must be notified of all orders made.
2. A preseason Overhead Resource Order will be established for Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest fire activity. By April 15th of each year the Forest FMO will provide a list of names to the Moab Interagency Dispatch Center. Additional names may be added during the fire season as needed.

MIFC will utilize local caches from the participating agencies for support only to the extent that the resources will not impact initial attack capabilities. All requests for resources outside of MIFC's jurisdiction will be provided through existing cache and ordering agreements (including Eastern Great Basin, Western Colorado, and all adjoining agencies). MIFC will expand the dispatch organization to meet the needs of logistical support situation(s).

MIFC will contact, make mobilization arrangements for, and dispatch participating agency overhead personnel. All personnel will meet the NWCG qualifications for the assignment they are requested to take. All participating agency personnel are responsible for their availability status and notifying their supervisor if they take the requested assignment.

Requests for use of National Guard and/or UDOT equipment, facilities and personnel will be made by MIFC to the State Forester through normal dispatch procedures.

Any agency requiring equipment owned by private contractors will place orders through the Moab Interagency Fire Center. Billing for said equipment will be directed to the requesting agency. All assistance for hire will be billed according to Clause 35 and 46 of the Master Agreement.

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H. Interagency Sharing of Communications Systems and Frequencies: MIFC dispatchers will monitor the radio frequencies for administrative, field, and air operations as required by agency agreements and procedures.

The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the State of Utah, and the National Park Service will exchange radio frequencies for emergencies and fire coordination. The following frequencies are authorized under this plan:

	TX	Tone	RX	Description
USFS:	171.425		171.425	Forest Service Simplex
	164.375		171.425	Forest Service Repeater
		110.9		Tone 1 Abajo/Tidds
		123.0		Tone 2 Deadman
		131.8		Tone 3 Wilderness
		136.5		Tone 4 Carpenter/Horseshoe
		146.2		Tone 5 Cedar Mtn.
		156.7		Tone 6 Monument Peak
		167.9		Tone 7 Flagstaff
		103.5		Tone 8 Bald Mesa
	168.775		168.775	Fire 1
	164.935		169.875	FS Fire Repeater

	TX	Tone	RX	Description
BLM:	163.125	118.8	164.200	Price Area
	168.350	100.0	163.025	Moab Area
	163.125	100.0	164.100	Monticello Area
	163.100		163.100	BLM Work
	170.500			Fire 2

	TX	Tone	RX	Description
State:	159.435		159.435	State fire Tactical
	159.285	151.4	151.415	Ford Ridge Repeater
	159.405	203.5	151.370	Bald Mesa Repeater
	159.300	151.4	151.310	Abajo Repeater
	159.165	203.5	151.130	Cedar Mtn. Repeater
	154.280		154.280	State Fire Marshall
	159.435			Fire 3

	TX	Tone	RX	Description
NPS:	166.325	123.0	166.325	SE Utah Group Simplex
	166.925	123.0 141.3 167.9	166.325	SE Utah Group Repeater – Grandview SE Utah Group Repeater - Mossback SE Utah Group Repeater - Abajo
	171.700	141.3	172.600	NPS – Bald Mesa

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	TX		Tone RX	Description
BIA-Navajo Area Forestry:	172.725		172.725	Car-To-Car
BIA-Ute Mountain Ute:	172.450		172.450	Car-To-Car
	170.100	103.5	172.450	Herman Pk. Repeater
	170.100	114.8	172.450	Red Mesa Repeater
BIA-Uintah and Ouray	167.025		167.025	Car-To-Car
	164.775	103.5	167.025	Repeater
Interagency:	168.625		168.625	Air Guard
	168.650		168.650	National Flight Following
	124.075		124.075	Victor - Air to Air
	172.325		172.325	Air to Ground - Freq 1
	171.575		171.575	Air to Ground - Freq 2

Moab Fire Zone Standard Channel Configuration

Channels 1-5 may reverse order depending if it is BLM or FS radio, or different freq for a State Radio

Channels 6-12 are to be standard for all fire radios

Channels 13+ are optional per agency

	Channel	TX	Tone	RX	Description
Moab Zone Interagency:	1	164.200	118.8	164.200	Price BLM
	2	163.025	100.0	163.025	Moab BLM
	3	164.100	100.0	164.100	Monticello BLM
	4	171.425		171.425	Manti 1
	5	171.425	By Repeater	164.375	Manti Rpt
	6	168.775		168.775	Fire 1
	7	172.325		172.325	Air to Gr 1
	8	170.500		170.500	Fire 2
	9	171.575		171.575	Air to Gr 2
	10	159.435		159.435	Fire 3
	11	163.100		163.100	BLM Work
	12	168.350		168.350	FS Work

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- I. **Move-up and Cover:** Move-up and Cover options are outlined in area preparedness plans.
- J. **Interagency procurement, loaning, sharing, or exchanging of facilities, equipment, and support services:** The Forest Service and BLM have established a procurement procedure for the purchase, leasing, etc., of supplies, equipment, and support services for fire incidents. See Appendix A (Procurement)
- K. **Wildfire Situation Analysis (WFS A):** The State and Federal Agencies are required by policy to complete a Wildfire Situation Analysis for all fires that escape initial suppression action. Procedures and agency policy for development of the WFS A are found in the local agency guidelines. Responsibility for strategy and implementation shall rest with the jurisdictional Agency's Line Officer.
- L. **Post-incident Action Analysis:** Initial Attack crews of cooperating agencies will provide all pertinent information to the jurisdictional agency when relieved from the fire. Cooperating agencies conducting continuing suppression activities on other agency land shall provide all necessary fire related information to the jurisdictional agency within five (5) days after the fire is declared out.
- M. **Joint Mobilization Centers or other incident support facilities:** Moab Fire Station
Moab Helibase
- N. **Agreed-to billing amounts (rates) for above resources and billing information for presuppression activities:** Agencies will bill one another for activities not related to fire suppression and administrative charges may be applied. Billings for such activities will be documented locally as part of this agreement.
- O. **Training:** A cooperative fire training plan for local training will be established each fall by the Moab Zone Interagency Training Committee. This training plan will identify courses, times, and sponsoring agency. MIFC will coordinate announcements and nominations.

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- P. **Operational Procedures for Wilderness Areas:** Any motorized use, helispots, and spike camps in the **Dark Canyon Wilderness** area, requires verbal approval from the Forest Supervisor or their acting, prior to each use. When fires occur in Utah on the **Black Ridge Wilderness** area, the BLM Duty Officer shall be notified before any action is taken. Management goals for fire in the Black Ridge Wilderness must be coordinated with the Grand Junction Field Office. Suppression of Fires occurring on the National Parks must be approved by the Duty Officer.

VII. FIRE PREVENTION

- A. **General Cooperative Activities:** The agencies within this agreement are responsible for carrying out any fire prevention program in their respective jurisdictional area. All agencies should coordinate their efforts in contacting the public through newspaper articles, radio messages, etc. to avoid duplication and insure maximum effectiveness. Agencies should also coordinate urban/wildland interface programs through the local State or County representatives.
- B. **Information and Education:** Where interagency cooperation for information and education programs exist, documentation of each agency's responsibilities will become part of this document.
- C. **Restrictions and Closures:** When fire closures and/or special fire regulations are deemed necessary, conditions will be coordinated with all agencies prior to publication of respective orders. When fire closures and/or special order fire regulations within the jurisdictional/protection authority of any agency is necessary, the responsible official will activate it. All fire restrictions/closures should adhere to the "Operating Plan for the Implementation of Fire Restrictions/Closures in Utah".
- D. **Engineering:**
1. Fire Safe Planning (wildland-urban interface): Agencies are encouraged to use the publication "Wildland Hazards and Residential Development", 1986, which identifies safety constraints for structures in the wildland urban interface area.
 2. Railroads and Utilities: Agencies are encouraged to work with railroad and utility companies to reduce the threat of human caused fires.
- E. **Enforcement:**
1. Burning Permits: Burning permits are required by Utah State Law for all people who burn on state and unincorporated private lands during the closed fire season from June 1 through October 31. Request for burning permits on state or private land will be referred to the respective county Fire Warden.
 2. Restrictions and Closures: Each agency is responsible for enforcement on the land they administer.
 3. Fire Investigations: The agency that takes initial attack action will protect the point of origin and notify MIFC of the need for investigation and documentation for reimbursable fires. As soon as practical, the agency with jurisdictional responsibility will assume responsibility for trespass investigation. All Federal Agencies will pursue their own cost recovery for fires that occur on Federal Land, no matter where the origin point is.

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IX. FIRE PLANNING

- A. **Presuppression analysis plans:** Agencies are encouraged to perform joint analysis wherever possible, keeping in mind that resources jointly funded will require documentation stating the fiscal responsibilities of each agency involved.
- B. **Prevention plans:** Agencies will prepare joint prevention plans where appropriate. Any agreement entered will be documented and become part of this agreement.
- C. **Prescribed fire plans:** Where opportunities exist to meet management objectives on adjoining lands, efforts should be made to develop cooperative prescribed fire plans. Joint management, funding, and responsibilities will be documented as in (A) above.
- D. **Mobilization plans, etc.:** Presently, each agency documents how they will maintain a level of preparedness in accordance with agency policy or resource planning guide. MIFC holds and consolidates these plans to meet area or zone requirements.

X. FUEL MANAGEMENT AND PRESCRIBED FIRE CONSIDERATIONS

Agencies are encouraged to participate in the prescribed fire programs of another agency whenever possible. Parties to this agreement are sharing resources for prescribed fire or fuel management activities. The assisting agency will fund their resources and no cross billing will take place, the concept being that equity will occur over the long run.

The participating agencies are involved in several joint interagency fuel modification projects.

Current Projects 2003

Willow Basin (North end of La Sals in Grand County)
Pack Creek (San Juan County)
Blue Mountain Ranch (San Juan County)
East Carbon/ Sunnyside (Carbon County)
Joe's Valley (Emery County)

Prescribed Fire Codes 2003

USFS Resources to BLM Projects ----- USFS Assigned
USFS Resources to State Projects ----- USFS Assigned
BLM Resources to State Projects ----- RD34
BLM Resources to USFS Projects----- RD31
State Resources to BLM & USFS Projects --- State Assigned

If the agencies involved agree that a project will cause a significant impact to a supporting agency a signed amendment for said activities defining billing processes and responsibilities will become part of this agreement.

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XI. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- A. **Periodic reviews:** A meeting to discuss the Operating Plan will be held each year before April 1. The responsibility to host the meeting will be rotated each year as follows:

2004 - State of Utah, Forestry, Fire and State Lands
2005 - Manti-La Sal National Forest
2006 - Bureau of Land Management, Moab F.O.
2007 - National Park Service, SEUG

The host will set a date for the meeting, arrange for a place to meet, and invite each agency. The operating plan will be signed and distributed by May 1 of each year.

- B. **Updating of Plans:** The hosting agency will have the MIFC Center Manager update, incorporate any changes to the plan and then route the plan for signature and final distribution.
- C. **Public Information:** Each agency is responsible for public information regarding lands under their jurisdictional responsibility. For boundary fires, Unified Command should determine appropriate information distribution.

MIFC Center Manager or acting will provide the media with the proper contacts for obtaining incident information until a Public Information Officer is assigned to the incident.

- D. **Augmentation Funds (Severity Funding):** Severity funding will be requested according to each agency's policy. Requests will require documentation and signature from agency administrators. All agencies should coordinate severity requests so as to get the best mix of resources to help in the area.
- E. **Changes During Year (due to budget cuts of supplemental funding):** Any changes in staffing will be reported to MIFC, who will then notify all involved agencies of the changes.